

share the goal of energizing our democracy and strengthening our Nation's character these initiatives are simply common sense.

What's more, these programs garner tangible benefits. In Connecticut, the Southwest Elementary School in Torrington implemented a character education program in September and has already seen positive results from its students. Attendance is up, students are more respectful toward their teachers and school administrators are convinced that Character Counts is responsible. The school engages parents in the effort, who along with educators and the students themselves, love the program.

While character education may not be a magical solution to all America's problems, it represents a positive effort to make a real difference in our children's lives. Character development programs for our children strengthen our lives, our communities, and our Nation as a whole.

I commend my friend and colleague from New Mexico for all of his work in this area. And I invite all my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join us in supporting character education as a vital means of molding better individuals, strengthening families, and creating a responsible American citizenry.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat—and especially Senator DOMENICI—in submitting this year's resolution to designate the week of October 13 through 19 as Character Counts Week.

The Character Counts Coalition is gaining momentum across the country, and I am proud to be a part of that effort.

With core members such as the American Red Cross and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Character Counts now includes over 80 member organizations whose efforts are reaching more than 40 million children, educators, and youth development professionals.

Mr. President, the Character Counts movement—which emphasizes trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship—seeks to teach the core elements of good character to our Nation's young people.

In today's world of widespread abortion, rape, divorce, illegitimate births, and violent crime, such a movement has never been more timely.

In my home State of Tennessee, many citizens have joined the call for character renewal.

In the Franklin and Bradley County school systems, my friend, Mr. Skeet Rymer, has responded the Lessons of Life essay program, based on a model developed by Mr. John Templeton of the Templeton Foundation.

In that program, students write essays examining their own lessons of life, and develop values that will lead them to fulfilled and productive lives.

Reactions from teachers and school board members, such as Lois Taylor, show just how important this program is. She tells us that through the essay contest, students learn to identify their own values and to lay the foundation for good choices throughout their lives.

Another teacher, Janis Collins says, "I just can't sing the program's praises enough." The Templeton Lessons of Life Essay Scholarship contest is just one example of the conscientious effort Tennesseans are making to educate young people on the importance of moral decisionmaking and conduct.

Mr. President, I also want to commend the city of Greeneville, TN, which has put together a character education program featuring 10 community virtues: self-respect, respect for others, perseverance, courtesy, fairness and justice, responsibility, honesty, kindness, self-discipline, and courage.

Greeneville's character education team—concerned teachers, principals, parents, ministers, school psychologists, and education board members—asked themselves what kind of qualities they would like their students to have, and they have volunteered their time to make sure these characteristics are nourished.

I think that the good people of Greeneville have shown the kind of character—the kind of selfless giving—of which America needs so much more.

Mr. President, Tennesseans have joined the national effort to save our children from the moral decay we see all around us because they recognize that the only way to preserve this great democracy—this system that requires so much from each of us—and our American way of life, is to instill virtue and moral fortitude in the next generation of Americans.

This will not happen without our effort, and without the incredible leadership of movements like Character Counts. Again, I commend Senator DOMENICI, and all those who are working so hard, to make character count once again in the United States of America.

SENATE RESOLUTION 227—ORIGINAL RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. D'AMATO, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, reported the following original resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

S. RES. 227

Resolved,

SECTION 1. FUNDS FOR SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

There shall be made available from the contingent fund of the Senate out of the Account for Expenses for Inquiries and Investigations, for use before, on, or after February 29, 1996, by the Special Committee to Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters (hereafter in

this Resolution referred to as the "Special Committee"), established by Senate Resolution 120, 104th Congress, agreed to May 17, 1995 (as amended by Senate Resolution 153, 104th Congress, agreed to July 17, 1995) to carry out the investigation, study, and hearings authorized by that Senate Resolution—

(1) a sum equal to not more than \$600,000—

(A) for payment of salaries and other expenses of the Special Committee; and

(B) not more than \$475,000 of which may be used by the Special Committee for the procurement of the services of individual consultants or organizations thereof; and

(2) such additional sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the Special Committee.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, in open session, to review the role of the Department of Defense Joint Requirements Oversight Council [JROC].

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to hold a hearing on the administration's views on the bipartisan proposal of the Governors' on welfare and Medicaid on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, beginning at 10 a.m. in room SD-215.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, at 2:15 p.m. in SD-226 to hold a nominations hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to hold a business meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 28, 1996.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate for a hearing on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, at 9:30 a.m., in room 428A of